

## Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 948.77

(9) Take any proper action necessary to carry out the provisions of this subpart; and

(10) Cause the books of the committee to be audited by a competent accountant at least once each fiscal period.

(b) The Colorado Potato Committee shall also:

(1) Supervise the regulation of shipments pursuant to the provisions of the general cull regulation in the absence of more restrictive regulations, and shall cooperate with any area committee in administering any regulation issued pursuant to this subpart;

(2) Make recommendations to the Secretary with respect to suspending or modifying the provisions of the general cull regulation;

(3) Make available to area committees its voting record on recommendations for modification of the cull regulation and other matters of policy;

(4) Submit to each area committee such available information as may be requested; and

(5) Call joint meetings of area committees on matters requiring consideration of statewide marketing policies when requested to do so by an area committee.

### EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

#### § 948.75 Expenses.

Each area committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary may find are reasonable and likely to be incurred during each fiscal period for its maintenance and functioning, and for purposes determined to be appropriate for administration of this part. Handlers shall share expenses upon the basis of a fiscal period. Each handler's share of such expenses shall be proportionate to the ratio between the total quantity of potatoes handled by him as the first handler thereof during a fiscal period and the total quantity of potatoes handled by all handlers as first handlers thereof during such fiscal period.

#### § 948.76 Budget.

As soon as practicable after the beginning of each fiscal period and as may be necessary thereafter, each area committee shall prepare an estimated

budget of income and expenditures necessary for its administration of this part. Each area committee may recommend a rate of assessment calculated to provide adequate funds to defray its proposed expenditures. Each area committee shall present such budget to the Secretary with an accompanying report showing the basis for its calculations.

#### § 948.77 Assessments.

(a) The funds to cover each area committee's expenses shall be acquired by the levying of assessments upon handlers as provided in this subpart. Each handler who first handles potatoes under this part, shall pay assessments to his respective area committee upon demand, which assessments shall be in payment of such handler's pro rata share of the area committee's expenses.

(b) Assessments shall be levied upon handlers at rates established by the Secretary. Such rates may be established upon the basis of each area committee's budget, recommendations, and other available information. Such rates may be applied to specified containers used in the production area.

(c) At any time during, or subsequent to, a given fiscal period each area committee may recommend the approval of an amended budget and an increase in the rate of assessment. Upon the basis of such recommendations, or other available information, the Secretary may approve an amended budget and increase the rate of assessment. Such increase shall be applicable to all potatoes grown within the particular area where an area committee recommends such increase and which were handled by the first handler thereof during such fiscal period.

(d) The payment of assessments for the maintenance and functioning of each area committee may be required under this part throughout the period it is in effect irrespective to whether particular provisions thereof are suspended or become inoperative.

(e) In order to provide funds to enable each area committee to perform its functions under this part, handlers may make advance payment of assessments.